GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5104
ANSWERED ON:05.04.2017
Community Radio Stations
Dwivedi Shri Harish

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

a) the number of applications received and approved from non-profit organisations till date to set up Community Radio Stations; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expand such radio stations across the country including backward and rural areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING [COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)]

(a) & (b): 2045 Applications have been received so far from non-profit organizations for grant of permission to set up Community Radio Stations (CRSs). 564 Letters of Intent (LOIs) have been issued to non-profit organizations.

Government has taken various steps towards the expansion of the Community Radio Stations across the country as given below:

1. The grant of permission process has been simplified.

2. Ministry also provides financial support to new as well as existing Community Radio stations for purchase of equipment and for content creation. The financial grant for equipment has been increased from 50% to 75% of the total cost (to 90% in North Eastern region) with a ceiling of Rs. 7.5 lakh.

3. The process for release of grants has also been simplified.

4. Workshops are organized by the Ministry to familiarise people about the Community Radio policy and create awareness amongst aspiring applicants about issues relating to installation, operation & maintenance of Community Radios.

5 . Six National and four Regional Sammelans have been organised for Community Radio operators, Government Ministries/ Departments, UN organisations and other stakeholders to facilitate exchange of ideas and experiences.

6. Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi has designed and started a training programme for Community Radio functionaries and those desirous of setting up a Community Radio Station.

7. Duration of broadcast of advertisements by CRSs has been increased from 05 minutes to 07 minutes per hour of broadcast to provide them better financial sustainability.

8. Community Radio Stations have been allowed to offer rates lower than DAVP rates for local advertisements, as the condition that DAVP rates are lowest rates has been relaxed for CRSs.

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